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Serial Number : 10/073,724

Appn. Filed: 02/11/2002

Applicant: John J. Scanlon

Appn. Title: Vacuum Collection Bag and Method of Operation

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### Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

Attached are completed forms PTO/SB/08A, PTO/SB/08B and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon. Following are comments on any non-English-language references pursuant to Rule 98:

U.S. Patent 6,007,594 to Kaczor shows in column 4, lines 14 and 23, a multiple use vacuum cleaner bag produced of permeable paper media. The reference does not show a bag produced of an impermeable media having an integrally connected air-permeable particle separator as recited in independent claims 1, 19 and 20. Furthermore, the referenced bag:

- (1) does not contain expanded PTFE as cited in dependent claim 7;
- (2) does not contain microfiberglass as cited in dependent claim 8;
- (3) does not contain non-woven as cited in dependent claim 10;
- (4) does not contain electrostatic media as cited in dependent claim 11;
- (5) is not transparent as cited in dependent claim 12;
- (6) does not contain antimicrobial materials as cited in dependent claim 14,
- (7) does not contain odor modification means as cited in dependent claim 15;
- (8) does not contain replaceable air-particle separator as cited in dependent claim 16,
- (9) does not contain an air-permeable particle separator that is protected by a shield as cited in dependent claim 17, and

Information Disclosure Statement of John J. Scanlon, 1308 Hillside Boulevard, Wilmington, Delaware, 19803 for application entitled Vacuum Collection Bag and Method of Operation, filed 11 February 2002, serial number 10/073,724.

(10) does not contain a pre-filter as cited in dependent claim 18.

International Association of Floor Care & Sewing Professionals (VDTA) web site page 1, lines 1-2, 3-6 and 12-13, dated July 23, 2001, entitled "Disposable Vacuum Cleaner Bags. There's a reason why they're called DISPOSABLE," clearly states that paper vacuum cleaner bags should not be reused and should be replaced when they are half full. This statement supports that vacuum cleaner bags according to invention of Kaczor cannot be reused.

QVC, Inc. web site order entry page (Product Detail H66538) dated May 17, 2000 shows in line 1 and line 8 a Hoover Windtunnel Clean-Air Upright Vacuum cleaner employing a dust bag in its "four-stage micro-filtration system." This statement clearly demonstrates that dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner.

Eureka web site page, dated May 17, 2000, entitled "upright info" page 2, lines 14-15 recites "Some bag units can experience a performance drop as the pores in the paper bag are clogged." This statement supports that vacuum cleaner bags according to the invention of Kaczor cannot be reused.

Eureka web site, dated May 17, 2000, entitled "What is an Upright Cleaner good for?" page 2, lines 32-34, recites a feature of Eureka upright vacuum cleaner and what it means to the consumer as a "Triple Filter system is the best yet for home use. Non-woven filter, 100-percent knit fabric bag, and disposable paper dust bag clean incoming air three times." This statement clearly demonstrates that paper dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner.

Eureka web site, dated May 17, 2000, entitled "The Filtration Story," page 1, lines 20-21, state "A sealed HEPA system is not only a HEPA filter, but an entire system that meets HEPA standards" and lines 25-27 state "To obtain the proper filtration, the system must be sealed to insure that all air must pass through the filter before being expelled back in the room." These statements clearly communicate the extra expense required to manufacture a vacuum cleaner employing a dust bag of the prior art so that excellent filtration is achieved. The air path between each filtration stage must be sealed to ensure dirty air does not bypass the filtration stages required to get excellent filtration.

QVC, Inc. web site order entry page (Product Detail H62665) dated May 17, 2000 shows on page 1, lines 5-6 a Sanyo SC-U126 Performax 12 amp Upright Vacuum cleaner employing a dust bag in its "5-stage filtration system." This statement clearly demonstrates that dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner. Moreover, the dust bags are not reusable.

QVC, Inc. web site order entry page (Product Detail H62652) dated May 17, 2000 shows on page 1, lines 5-6 a Panasonic Heavy Duty Plus 9 Amp Vacuum Cleaner employing a dust bag in its "*five-stage filtration system*." This statement clearly demonstrates that dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner. Moreover, the dust bags are not reusable.

Sears Kenmore web site order entry page (Kenmore 30012) dated May 17, 2000 shows a Kenmore Quick Clean Upright Vacuum Cleaner employing a dust bag in its "Cleaning System" having two filters. This statement clearly demonstrates that dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner. Moreover, the dust bags are not reusable.

Sears Kenmore Owner's Manual (part no. C01ZAMA10U00-4370827), page 14, "Dust Bag Changing," column 1, lines 45-55, states "CAUTION-NEVER REUSE A DUST BAG. Very fine materials, such as carpet freshener, face powder, fine dust, plaster, soot, etc. can clog the bag and cause it to burst before it is full." This statement supports that vacuum cleaner bags according to invention of Kaczor cannot be reused.

Sears Kenmore Owner's Manual (part no. C01ZAMA10U00-4370827), page 15, "Filter Changing," columns 3 and 4, lines 1-55, show the procedure for replacing a dirty vacuum cleaner filters. The *multi-stage filtration system* has filters that serve as backup filters to dust bags that have poor filtration. This statement clearly demonstrates that dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner. Moreover, the dust bags are not reusable.

Miele Appliances, Inc. brochure (Powerhouse Plus S174I) entitled "Introducing the new power in vacuum cleaner technology..." shows on page 4, column 2, lines 1-21 a vacuum cleaner employing a dust bag where it requires the air to flow through *five filtering stages*. This statement clearly demonstrates that dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner. Moreover, the dust bags are not reusable.

Miele Appliances, Inc. web site, entitled "Breathe Easy," dated May 17, 2000, page 2, lines 5-20, state "Most vacuum cleaners lack the proper filtration required to contain microscopic particles that have escaped through the dust bag..." In addition, it states "Super Air Clean filter is positioned after the motor to capture the minute particles that have escaped through the dust bag..." The web site also discusses its multi-stage filtration system in paragraph 2. These statements clearly demonstrate that dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner. Moreover, the dust bags are not reusable.

Simplicity brochure entitled "Bringing you cleaner living" model 7350 shows on page 2, columns 1 and 2, first paragraphs a vacuum cleaner employing a dust bag in a 5-stage filtration system. The Simplicity web site (Models 7200/7250/7300/7350) dated May 17, 2000 also shows on page 1, lines 5 and 15, and page 2 line 25 vacuum cleaners employing a dust bag in a 5-stage filtration system. These statements clearly demonstrate that dust bags of the prior art provide poor filtration performance and require backup filters to deliver clean air out the exhaust of the vacuum cleaner. Moreover, the dust bags are not reusable.

Very respectfully,

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Enc: PTO/SB/08A, PTO/SB/08B & References

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231."

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*John J. Scanlon*  
 (Inventor)

05/10/2002